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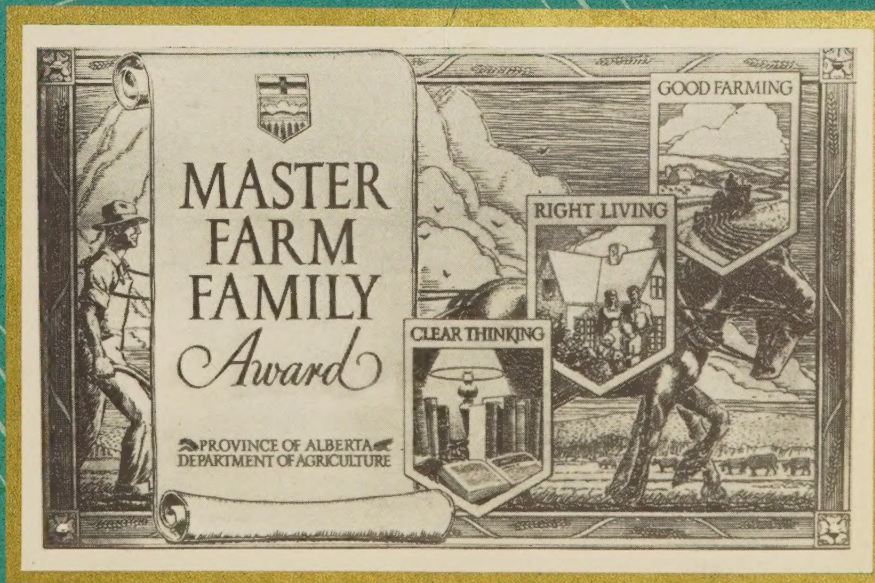
1962

MASTER FARM FAMILIES

OF ALBERTA

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FOREWORD

THE practice of Agriculture has always been a challenge to the best efforts, skill and abilities of those who follow this noble vocation. Successful farming today requires greatly increased knowledge, skill and management ability to keep abreast of the advancement of science as applied to Agriculture. In no field of endeavour, nor in any other industry, have these advances been more pronounced or more productive of benefits to all people. Food supplies are now produced in more uniform year round quantities, much higher qualities, as to nutritional value and at relatively cheap prices as compared with other goods and services. Farm families of Alberta can indeed claim their just share of credit for these achievements.

Efficient and profitable practices would yield little honest satisfaction if not balanced with good citizenship and a good standard of living. A full measure of satisfactory family farm achievement giving a fair return for capital and labour, providing time for recreation, and time for an active part as a citizen, are qualities which make Alberta Master Farm Families stand out in their own communities.

The Alberta families receiving the award for 1962 have attained and enriched the high standards set by those preceeding them. It gives me great pleasure to add these four outstanding families to the forty-nine which have previously received this distinction.

HONOURABLE HARRY E. STROM
Minister of Agriculture

sigurd NIELSEN family

OF STANDARD

BROAD vision in agricultural and homemaking methods and a deep desire for a happy family life have helped earn the Alberta Master Farm Family Award for the Sigurd Nielsen family of Standard.

Mr. Nielsen came to Canada from Denmark in 1929 with twenty-five dollars. He left the old country because opportunities were greater in Canada. During his first few years in Alberta he worked as a farm and general labourer. Later he rented land, and subsequently bought a farm in the Standard district.

These land holdings have grown until today the Nielsen family own and operate over 8,000 acres, of which about 6,000 acres are arable. They have approximately 3,000 acres in crop each year. The non-arable land is used as range with a cow herd of 150 head and they feed out some 200 feeder steers yearly. They are now developing a large specific pathogen free commercial hog enterprise.

They demonstrate an analytical approach to their problems and don't hesitate to apply new ideas and methods to their operations. For example, for the past five years they have used a strip cover crop system (oats are sown in twelve foot strips with twenty-four foot intervals). It has controlled soil erosion and weeds, provided fall grazing and maintained crop yields satisfactorily. Their land is quite rolling. The cultivator is their main tillage implement and operations are performed in a timely manner.



One of the guiding mottos of the Nielsen family has been — "If anything is worth doing at all, it is worth doing well." This principle is not only evident on the farm, but in the home as well. The spacious farm home, convenient and comfortable, is a source of enjoyment to the entire family.

Mr. and Mrs. Nielsen have a deep sense of pride in the accomplishments of their five children. Svend, the oldest son, is married, has two children and is farming at Acme. Anne, a graduate nurse, is married and presently nursing at Lacombe. A potential lawyer, Dennis, is in his fourth year of Law at the University of Alberta. Employed in Calgary at present, Sonja is completing her course at a Business



College. A Grade Ten student, Paul, 14, is active in sports and is an enthusiastic horseman. With appreciation of the potential of each individual, Mr. and Mrs. Nielsen have carefully guided the development of their children to responsible citizenship.

Mr. Nielsen has been a member of the local school board and municipal council. He is an active member of the Masons, the Lions and the Athletic Club at Standard. He is a member of the Calgary Shriners Horse Patrol and raises light horses. The children have joined their father in various riding activities. The Nielsens are also members of the Lutheran Church, F.U.A., and the Home and School Association.



harold McLAUGHLIN family

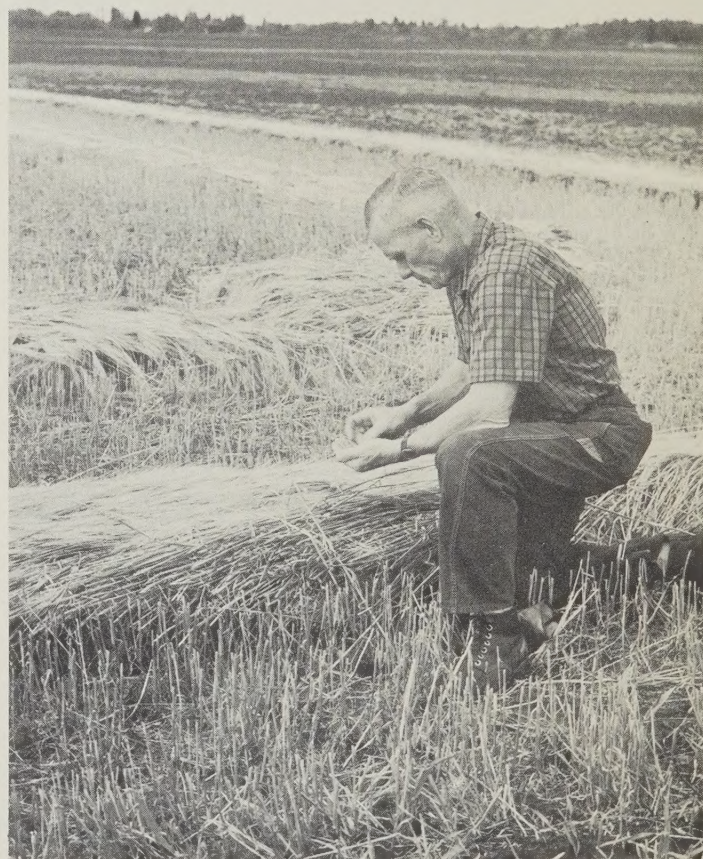
OF SPRUCE GROVE

VETERAN, sportsman, community leader, former member of the legislature, and first and foremost an outstanding farmer, Harold McLaughlin, is head of the 1962 Alberta Master Farm Family for the Northern Region.

Thousands of Alberta motorists and tourists have been impressed by the McLaughlin farm just west of Spruce Grove on Highway 16. Year after year the clean, neat, and well trimmed grain fields show the results of careful planning, wise choice of varieties and expert husbandry. They are an example to the community and the province, and have produced thousands of bushels of high quality seed which has been widely used throughout Alberta.

Following graduation from the University of Alberta with a B.A. in 1925 and a BSc. in 1927, Mr. McLaughlin started farming, first as a labourer, then tenant, and finally as owner in 1939. The main enterprise is high quality registered and certified seed production, but a cattle feeding operation is also carried on in co-operation with a neighbor. Outstanding in the McLaughlins' operations are their detailed records of both grain and cattle production. These, together with the results of much experimentation both with varieties and methods, has given Mr. McLaughlin a fund of information which has not only served him well, but has been freely passed on to his neighbors.

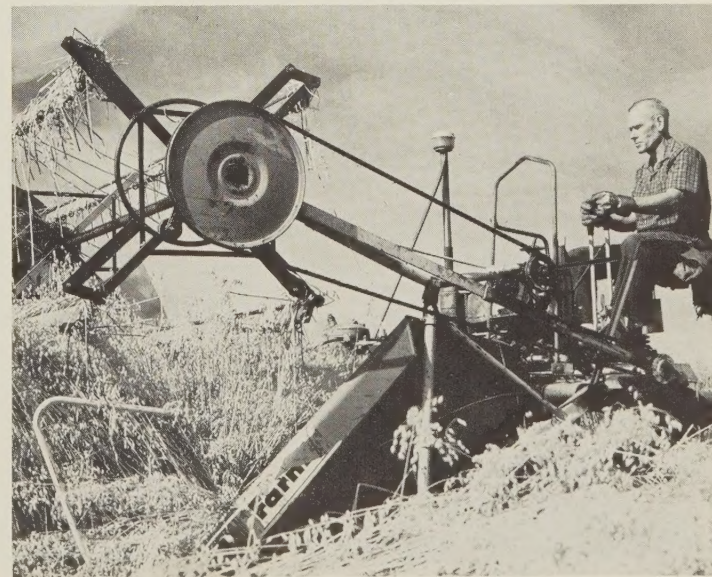
The McLaughlin family consists of Harold, Mrs. McLaughlin, Lynn, their 19-year-old daughter who, after a year at the University of Alberta is now attending the McTavish Business College, and Kenneth, 17, enrolled at the Vermilion School of Agriculture



for the 1962-63 term. Both children have been active in 4-H work — Lynn in a Garden Club and a Home Decorating Club, while Ken has completed eight projects as well as having occupied club executive positions. Mrs. McLaughlin has taken a keen interest in community and social activities, and has held the positions of secretary and president of both the Women's Institute and the Curling Club.

Mr. McLaughlin's contributions to his community and province have been many, and valuable. He represented the constituency of Stony Plain in the Legislature from 1955 to 1959. He is a director of the Provincial Seed Cleaning Association, the Canadian Seed Growers (Alberta Branch), the Edmonton and District Agricultural Society, and the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce (Agricultural Section). He is a keen sportsman, and in addition to being vice president of the Stony Plain Fish and Game Association, and past secretary of the local Curling Club, he represents the Alberta Federation of Agriculture on the Provincial Fish and Game Advisory Committee. He is also an accredited trophy appraiser for an international organization that records the size of outstanding specimens of wild life.

Scientific training, careful planning and testing, hard work and determination were the main ingredients that brought the farm unit to its present highly productive standard. Keen appreciation, and devotion to the welfare of family and community and province have rounded out the accomplishments of the McLaughlin's to make them worthy recipients of this highest award in agriculture in Alberta.





sigurd
NIELSEN
family

1962 MASTER FARM



harold
McLAUGHLIN
family



albert
KAMPS
family

FAMILIES

george
DECHANT
family



george DECHANT family OF FAIRVIEW

FROM pioneer to Master Farmer is the story of George Dechant, of Fairview. Moving into the area in 1916, when George was only eight, the senior Dechant family settled in the Freidenstal district, to carve a farm from the wilderness. For five years, no school was within reach of the eager



youngster. Finally, one was built four and one-half miles from their home. This limited the youth's opportunity for formal education, but it certainly did not impede the development of his powers of observation, logic and a deep and broad understanding.

The Dechants were married in 1922, and have a family of three boys and three girls. Both parents keenly aware of the value of an education, they



moved to their present farm to be near the school when Edwin, their oldest boy, was nine. After completing Grade Eleven, Edwin took a course at the Fairview School of Agriculture. He is now married, and pioneering in the Hawk Hills area. Evelyn completed Grade Twelve, trained as a nurse, and is now a nursing sister at Fort Saint John. Irene completed her high school and is now married. The three younger members are still at school. James, 17, in

Grade Eleven plans to become a priest, while Marie, 13, in Grade Eight and William, 10, in Grade Four, have not made plans to date.

Situated on flat topography, the Dechants have built a compact, attractive and efficient farmstead. They framed it with an unusually well kept and uniform shelter belt that protects both the buildings and garden. Their recently remodelled home seems to add its own note of welcome to the visitor to that gracious one extended by Mr. and Mrs. Dechant.

Mr. Dechant has a deep understanding of the soil and of farming, and his intimate knowledge of every one of his nine hundred cultivated acres is without doubt one of the main reasons for his success. As a registered and certified seed producer, both of cereals and grasses, he has pioneered not only in cultural practices and fertilizer, but also in the development and use of new machines. Virtually weed free crops, and well above average yields attest to the success of his methods. A planned expansion program has steadily increased his crop acreage. At the same time a livestock program has been developed that converts the seed crop screenings and the grass seed aftermath to high grade beef. Judicious choice of enterprises, acreage and equipment has resulted in efficiency both of labour and machine. Resourcefulness, planning and use of records shows similar efficiency in the home.

The Dechants have also found time to participate as civic and social leaders. As councillor for ten years, Mr. Dechant has displayed initiative and leadership that has benefitted the whole community. As school board member and chairman, co-operative and credit union director, agricultural society director, and church board member he has exerted a powerful influence in the agricultural, educational, social and religious aspects of his community.

Mrs. Dechant has added to this influence by her support of the Catholic Women's League, participation in the Parent Teacher Association and in her diocesan offices which have included both president and secretary. In addition to these activities, Mrs. Dechant finds time to support the local fair, and is a successful exhibitor with her handicraft entries. The children have been, or are members of the various Young People's Clubs.



albert KAMPS family OF LACOMBE

THE farmstead of the Albert Kamps family, bordering Highway 12, three miles west of Lacombe is a picture of neatness, friendliness, planning and prosperity. They are the successful candidates in the West Central Region for the 1962 Alberta Master Farm Family Award. Thirty three years ago Mr. Kamps came to Canada from Holland. First as a labourer, then tenant, and finally, for the last 18 years as an owner, he has built up his farm to its present stature. This consists of one section of rich land, 110 dairy animals, a beef feeding enterprise of 100 head annually, and the buildings and equipment necessary to handle this combination of operations.

The Kamps family of four boys and two girls, three of whom are still attending school, are all interested in agriculture. They have been exceptionally active in 4-H work. Mae, the oldest daughter, and Bill, the second son, both won trips to the Toronto Royal as a result of their club activities. In addition, Bill was awarded the Alberta Wheat Pool scholarship to the Olds School of Agriculture in 1961-62. Henry, who was also an outstanding club member, is now putting his 4-H training to practical use as a livestock buyer with one of the large packing firms. Grace, who is now in Grade XI, maintains the family's 4-H interest in the Lacombe Dairy Club, of which her father has been a director for several years, and a leader for two.

The Kamps' home has traditionally been a gathering place for the young people of the district — reflecting the genuine interest and understanding of Mrs. Kamps in the younger generation. This hospitable neighborliness extends to others, whether it is to share in the harvest of the berries or garden, or looking after a baby while the parents are away.

The major enterprise on the Kamps' farm is dairying. About 60 high producing Holsteins supply



the milk that goes to both the Lacombe and Calgary market. The dairying is a three-way partnership between Mr. Kamps, son Bill and son-in-law Dave Abma. The herd is on the provincial cow testing plan and this, artificial insemination, and purchase of some fine replacement animals of which several are registered, have all contributed to the rapid improvements in production of this herd. Production now averages well over 1,200 pounds of milk per cow.

Field production has been geared to the livestock requirements. Sixty per cent of the cultivated acreage produces cereal crop, and 40% is in forage. The cereal is used both for grain and silage. While most of the forage is baled, the remainder is used in the two silos. This combination of feed production has succeeded so well in providing both current re-



quirements and a feed reserve that a beef feeding enterprise has been possible for several years.

In addition to these farm accomplishments, the Kamps have found time to play a leading role in community, church and social activities. As a local school board member, director of the telephone company, director of the Lacombe Feeder's Association and member of the F.U.A. local, as well as his 4-H activities, Mr. Kamps has given leadership in the fields of education and agriculture in his district. As a member of Rotary, and as deacon and treasurer of his church, he has worked for the social and religious improvement of his district. Mrs. Kamps has concentrated mainly on making her home a neighborhood and social centre, but she has also found time to work with the Ladies' Aid. The main contribution of the children has been their outstanding 4-H club work.





1949

J. G. DUSSEAUT FAMILY VIMY
 W. J. EDGAR FAMILY INNISFAIL
 L. R. JENSEN FAMILY MAGRATH
 J. E. MELENKA FAMILY WARWICK
 JOSEPH PAQUETTE FAMILY DONNELLY

1955

THE ROBINSON FAMILY PINCHER CREEK
 B. O. BROWN FAMILY ACME
 CHRIS SCHNEIDER FAMILY VEGREVILLE

1950

EMILE CAMMAERT FAMILY ROCKYFORD
 CHARLES KALLAL FAMILY TOFIELD
 ROY BALLHORN FAMILY WESTASKIWIN
 E. S. PARSON FAMILY BOYLE
 FRED LABRECQUE FAMILY SPIRIT RIVER

1956

A. D. FRASER FAMILY TEEPEE CREEK
 ALFRED ROSE FAMILY ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE
 JOHN ROZMAHEL FAMILY VIKING
 WILFRED MCGILLIVRAY FAMILY COALDALE

1951

J. G. POROZNI FAMILY WILLINGDON
 J. W. HOSFORD FAMILY S. EDMONTON
 FLOYD GILKYSON FAMILY LA GLACE
 VICTOR WATSON FAMILY AIRDRIE

1957

NO AWARDS

1952

JESSE COLE FAMILY CLIVE
 JOHN LAMBERT FAMILY MANNING
 E. R. LEWIS FAMILY STONY PLAIN
 J. H. SCHMALTZ FAMILY BEISEKER
 JOHN SKRYPITSKY FAMILY MUNDARE

1958

JAMES McCULLOUGH FAMILY DIDSBURY
 MEL WOOD FAMILY TOFIELD
 ANDREW JESPERSON FAMILY STONY PLAIN

1953

FRANK JACKSON FAMILY KEG RIVER
 ERNEST BELZIL FAMILY ST. PAUL
 EMIL KVARNBERG FAMILY BUFORD
 LESTER LOHR FAMILY ERSKINE
 HOWARD HYMAS FAMILY ROSEBUD

1959

A. M. ROBERTSON FAMILY CARSTAIRS
 GEORGE COWLING FAMILY HIGH RIVER

1954

HARLIE CONRAD FAMILY CLAIRMONT
 MARTIN ARNDT FAMILY BARRHEAD
 ADAM BUYER FAMILY CARBON
 W. R. STORCH FAMILY GARDEN PLAINS
 A. W. KING FAMILY HIGH RIVER

1960

H. M. HANEY FAMILY IRON SPRINGS
 J. R. CROZIER FAMILY ST. ALBERT
 ARTHUR BATES FAMILY ACME
 CHRIS OESTER FAMILY PARADISE VALLEY

1961

G. R. POWLESLAND FAMILY DEL BONITA
 E. SCHIELKE FAMILY CARSTAIRS
 J. W. PEARSON FAMILY EDBERG
 MARTIN FELSTAD FAMILY DAPP

1962

GEORGE DECHANT FAMILY FAIRVIEW
 ALBERT KAMPS FAMILY LACOMBE
 N. SIGURD NIELSON FAMILY STANDARD
 J. HAROLD McLAUGHLIN FAMILY SPRUCE GROVE

THE GOALS OF FARM MANAGEMENT

"GOOD family living" is the best goal for the successful farm manager. Leisure, living and enjoyment of life are more important than squeezing the last nickel out of the farm.

Nevertheless, profit is important in bringing about happiness and successful living for the farm family. Over a wide range, increases in profits almost always increase the level of living of the family. In addition to providing capital for reinvestment in the business, profit provides purchasing power for modern conveniences in the home, for medical and health services, for travel, vacations, education and recreation and for the many other things besides food and subsistence which help to develop people and contribute to a full life. The goal of farm management, is to push income to levels where farm families can have a full and abundant life. Farm management is not complete unless it includes efficiency in choice between the business and living sides of life.

If we look about us, we see that the great majority of successful managers are not only leaders in the field of farm business; they are also leaders in their communities and are persons with breadth and vision. They have breadth and vision in the sense that they see the relationship between successful farm management and successful home management.

Exerpts from "Farm Management Economics,"
by Heady and Jensen.

THE MASTER FARM FAMILY
PROGRAM WAS INITIATED IN
ALBERTA ON FEBRUARY 17, 1949.

IT IS A POLICY OF THE
ALBERTA GOVERNMENT WHICH
SEEKS TO SELECT AND HONOR
FARM FAMILIES WHO HAVE
MADE AN OUTSTANDING
SUCCESS OF FARMING, HOME-
MAKING AND CITIZENSHIP.



ISSUED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
HON. HARRY E. STROM
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

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